

January 24, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
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Washington, DC 20530
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Dear Ms. Hesse:

As a long-term care specialist, I am concerned that the tumble that the stock market has suffered is draining the finances of our nation's elderly. We've got to get the nation's economy back on track. The government needs to focus on ways to spur economic growth like never before.

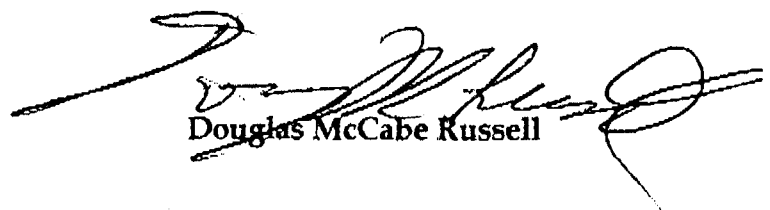
In less than ten short years, the baby boom generation will begin to reach retirement age. A record number of seniors will inundate our nation's hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities. These people will need savings not for luxury items, but to cover living expenses associated with aging.

Our nation's greatest generation, for the most part, worked at one company for their entire working career. Their pensions are largely vested in stocks. When the stock market is unstable, their financial situation, and living conditions, become unstable as well.

The baby boom generation are less likely to have worked in one company, and are less likely to have saved for a retirement. They are, however, more likely to have invested a substantial portion, or all, of their savings in the stock market. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMY IN ORDER TO BOLSTER THESE SAVINGS.

I request that Judge Kollar Kotelly approves the settlement between Microsoft and the federal government. This lawsuit has been proven to have caused much of the turmoil within the economy in general, and the stock market in particular. Our nation's retirees need security, and deserve governmental cooperation.

Sincerely,



Douglas McCabe Russell